

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01312 150546Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 /055 W  
-----114173 151010Z /10  
R 150532Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5163

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 01312

E.O.11652:N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, NZ  
SUBJECT: NZ GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES NEW EMPLOYMENT MEASURES

1. THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (MR GORDON) HAS  
ANNOUNCED THE INTRODUCTION OF THREE NEW JOB CREATION  
PROGRAMS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE EXPANSION OF THE  
EXISTING PUBLIC SECTOR JOB CREATION PROGRAM. THE  
PROGRAMS WERE AIMED AT PROMOTING JOB SKILLS FOR PEOPLE  
ENROLLED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR AS SEEKING WORK  
WITH EMPHASIS ON SCHOOL LEAVERS AND THOSE WITH LITTLE  
OR NO WORK EXPERIENCE. THE PROGRAM WILL APPLY FOR THIS  
YEAR ONLY. THE NEW PROGRAMS ARE:

(A) SKILL PROMOTION PROGRAM - AIMS AT ASSISTING  
EMPLOYERS IN PROVIDING ADDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES,  
MAKING FULL USE OF EXISTING FORMS OF TRAINING. THIS  
PROGRAM WILL APPLY ONLY TO THOSE ENROLLED FOR ASSISTANCE  
TO FIND WORK AND WHO WOULD CLEARLY BENEFIT FROM TRAINING  
WHICH WILL RESULT IN OBTAINING QUALIFICATIONS SUCH AS  
APPRENTICESHIPS AND CADETSHIPS.

(B) THE FIRST JOB PROGRAM - AIMED AT SCHOOL LEAVERS,  
THOSE WITH LIMITED WORK EXPERIENCE AND THOSE STUDENTS  
RELUCTANT TO RETURN TO SCHOOL. THIS PROGRAM AIMS TO  
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SECURE PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT FOR THE ABOVE GROUPS BY  
HELPING EMPLOYERS MEET COSTS OF THE INITIAL PERIOD OF  
EMPLOYMENT. ONLY THOSE ENROLLED FOR EMPLOYMENT  
ASSISTANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR ARE ELIGIBLE.

(C) ADDITIONAL JOBS PROGRAM - DESIGNED TO ASSIST  
EMPLOYERS WITH THE EMPHASIS BEING IN THE EXPORT AND OTHER

INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE SECTORS WHO WISH TO EXPAND THEIR OPERATIONS AND INCREASE THE SIZE OF THEIR STAFF, LOW PRIORITY WILL BE ACCORDED INDUSTRIES THAT ARE HIGH IMPORT USERS.

2. ALL THREE PROGRAMS PROVIDE PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYERS WITH WEEKLY WAGE SUBSIDIES RANGING FROM DOLLARS-TWENTY TO DOLLARS-FIFTY IN RESPECT OF EACH QUALIFYING VACANCY FILLED THROUGH THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR.

3. IN ADDITION, TO THE NEW PRIVATE SECTOR JOB CREATION MEASURE, SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES TO THE EXISTING PUBLIC SECTOR JOB AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED. THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM WILL MEET THE TOTAL WAGE COST INCURRED BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS IN MAKING WORK AVAILABLE AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. A SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION WOULD ALSO BE MADE TOWARDS MEETING THE LABOUR RELATED OVERHEADS INVOLVED IN QUALIFYING PROJECTS.

4. COMMENT: AS HAS BEEN REPORTED EARLIER, THE GOVERNMENT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH RISING UNEMPLOYMENT, WHICH ALTHOUGH NOT INTOLERABLE BY U.S. STANDARDS, IS POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE HERE. THE ISSUE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE CLOSE ATTENTION AS THE GENERAL ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR LATE THIS YEAR DRAW EVER  
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NEARER. THE PRESENT MEASURES APPEAR TO BE A WELL THOUGHT OUT APPROACH TO THE PROBLEM, CONCENTRATING AS THEY DO ON FACILITATING EMPLOYMENT OF THOSE ACTUALLY SEEKING WORK, RATHER THAN JUST SIMPLY EXPANDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS. SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EMPLOYMENT, GOVERNMENT REFORM, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014